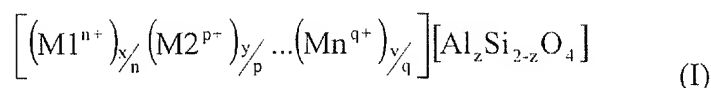


In the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation comprising a zeolite material comprising releasably adsorbed nitric oxide for use in surgery and/or therapy.

2. (Currently amended) [[A]]The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation zeolite material for use according to claim 1, wherein the zeolite has the following general formula (I):



wherein M1 and M2 ... Mn are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as $N(R_1)_a(R_2)_b^+$ wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from H, $-CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_3$, or $-CH_2CH_2CH_3$, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that $a + b = 4$;

x ranges from zero to nz,

y ranges from zero to pz, and

v ranges from zero to qz;

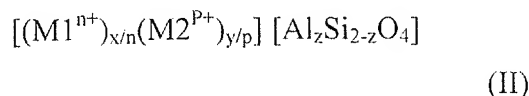
subject to the condition that $x/n + y/p + \dots + v/q = z$; wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework;

n^+ , p^+ and q^+ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations, and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

3. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation zeolite material for use according to claim 2, wherein M1 and/or M2 are NH⁺₄.

4. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation zeolite material for use according to claim 1, wherein the zeolite has having the following general formula (II):



wherein M1 and M2 are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as N(R₁)_a(R₂)_b⁺ wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, or -CH₂CH₂CH₃, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that a + b = 4;

x may range from zero to nz, and

y may range from zero to pz, subject to the condition that x/n + y/p = z;

wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework;

n⁺ and p⁺ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

5. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation zeolite material for use according to claim 1, wherein the zeolite is selected from the group consisting of Ni-LTA(A), Cu-LTA(A), Co-LTA(A), Mn-LTA(A), Fe-LTA, Na-LTA(A) and Cu-PHI.

6. (Currently amended) [[A]]The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation zeolite material for use according to claim 1, in the form of a powder or a monolith.

7. (Currently amended) [[A]]The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation zeolite material for use according to claim 6, wherein said monolith is formed by compression of a zeolite powder or by mixing a powdered zeolite with a binder.

8. (Currently amended) [[A]]The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation zeolite material for use according to claim 7, wherein the binder is selected from ceramic binders, polymeric binders and other polymers.

9-41. (Canceled.)

42. (New) The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation according to claim 8, wherein said ceramic binder is selected from the group consisting of silica and alumina, and wherein said polymeric binder is selected from the group consisting of polysulfone, polyethylene, PET, polystyrene and polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).

43. (New) The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation according to claim 1, wherein said zeolite is partially or completely dehydrated prior to nitric oxide loading

44. (New) The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation according to claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic carrier therefor.

44. (New) A medical article comprising the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation according to claim 1.

45. (New) A cosmetic or personal hygiene product comprising the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical or cosmetic preparation according to claim 1.

46. (New) The medical article of claim 44, wherein said medical article is selected from the group consisting of stents, catheters, wound dressings, bandages, self-adhesive plasters and patches

47. (New) The medical article of claim 44, wherein said medical article is a stent.

48. (New) The cosmetic or personal hygiene product of claim 45, wherein said cosmetic or personal hygiene product is selected from the group consisting of cosmetics, deodorants, anti-aging skin preparations, preparations applied before, during or after hair removal, hair preparations and depilatory preparations.